

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03487 060459Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 INR-10 SS-15 SP-02 INRE-00
SSO-00 /045 W

-----027740 060508Z /16

O 060427Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USS HAROLD E. HOLT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5842
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 03487

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

DEPT. FOR DAS OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, WS
SUBJECT: VISIT TO WESTERN SAMOA OF NPW BAINBRIDGE

REF: USS HAROLD E. HOLT 051110Z JULY 78

1. FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND RECEIVED HERE AT 12:30 P.M. TODAY, I WILL MAKE NO FURTHER EFFORTS TO OBTAIN TUPUOLO EFI'S CONSENT TO THE VISIT TO WESTERN SAMOA OF THE NPW USS BAINBRIDGE.

2. AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS ALREADY MADE, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TUPUOLA WILL APPROVE THE VISIT WITHOUT FURTHER CONTACT ON OUR PART, ESPECIALLY SINCE TONGA HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT CLEARANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. TONGA'S ACCEPTANCE, THE RESULT OF MY PERSONAL APPROACH TO THE KING, SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON TUPUOLA'S THINKING.

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3. IN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR THE BAINBRIDGE'S PLANNED VISITS TO TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA (REF. CNO 161329Z JUNE 78) AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM WESTERN SAMOA, IT WAS MY JUDGMENT THAT YOUR INFLUENCE WITH TUPUOLA WOULD DEFINITELY TIP THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF HIS ACCEPTANCE. FROM MY FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH THE ISLANDS, I KNOW

THAT EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING OF THIS IMPORTANCE AT OTHER THAN THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS ARE WASTED. MY OWN EFFORTS, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT THE KING OF TONGA AND PRIME MINISTER TUPUOLA EFI. WHILE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE FORMER APPROACH, I FELT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, BECAUSE OF YOUR SPECIAL RAPPORT WITH TUPUOLA, THAT YOU ALSO EXPRESS YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST TO HIM.

4. THOUGH I PLAN TO MAKE NO FURTHER APPROACHES TO WESTERN SAMOA, I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE WE MAY RECEIVE NO ANSWER. IT IS AN ISLAND HABIT WHEN RELUCTANT TO GIVE EITHER A YES OR NO ANSWER TO GIVE NO REPLY AT ALL. THIS COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN THE SCHEDULING OF THE BAINBRIDGE'S MOVEMENTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC LATER THIS MONTH. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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